



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

Man wanted in Costa Rica for raping a minor captured in New Jersey

ICE officers acting upon a tip found the criminal living illegally in the United States

MANVILLE, N.J. – Officers from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) Fugitive Operations Team in New Jersey have apprehended today a man convicted for raping a minor child in his native Costa Rica. Mirciades Antonio Solano-Quesada, 35 is the subject of an Interpol arrest warrant. He is now in ICE custody and will be detained pending removal proceedings in immigration court.

When apprehended this morning Solano-Quesada initially denied he was using an alias, but when presented with evidence he admitted his true identity. He also admitted that he illegally entered this country. The investigation determined he had a valid New Jersey driver’s license issued in the name of the alias he was using at the time of his arrest.

According to the Interpol warrant, Solano-Quesada was convicted on March 22, 1997 for the rape of a minor. He was sentenced to ten years in a Costa Rican prison but was able to flee the country before he was imprisoned. Costa Rican authorities say fingerprints prove that the individual hiding in the United States is the man convicted of rape.

According to documents supplied by the Costa Rican government Solano-Quesada lured a mentally handicapped 13 year old girl to a remote location and raped her. The girl became pregnant due to the sexual assault.

“The case points out the excellent working relationship between ICE, Interpol and the Costa Rican government. Our goal is to return a convicted child rapist to his home country to serve his sentence,” said Raymond A. Simonse, director of ICE’s office of Detention and Removal Operations in Newark.

Simonse stated that the arrest is an example of why ICE places a priority on Fugitive Operations Teams nationwide. “This man fled his native country to avoid prison, entered the United States surreptitiously and was trying to stay under the radar. International cooperation and good police work will ensure this man faces justice in Costa Rica,” he said. The Manville Police Department assisted in the apprehension.

During Fiscal 2005 the Newark Fugitive Operations Team apprehended 892 fugitives hiding in the Garden State. As of the middle of February of 2006 more than 400 fugitives have been apprehended. Since creation of ICE, Fugitive Operations Teams around the nation have arrested 41,000 aliens.

ICE's National Fugitive Operations Program is part of the Secure Border Initiative (SBI), a comprehensive multi-year plan by the Department of Homeland Security to secure America's borders and reduce illegal migration. Under SBI, Homeland Security seeks to gain operational control of both the northern and southern borders, while re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are removed from the country quickly and efficiently. SBI also involves strong interior enforcement efforts, including enhanced worksite enforcement investigations and intensified efforts to track down and remove illegal aliens inside this country.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.